



NORTH WITCHFORD RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Year 1948.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,—

I beg to present to you my report for the year 1948 on the health conditions of your district during that period.

I also present the Sanitary Inspector's report.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

CECIL THOMAS,

Medical Officer of Health.

THE GENERAL HEALTH of the district has been good, there were no serious epidemics.

GENERAL PROVISIONS FOR HEALTH SERVICES.

(1) Public Health Officers.

Medical Officer of Health—CECIL THOMAS, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.
Sanitary Inspector—H. BURTON, A.R.S.I.

(2) Nursing in the Home.

The entire district has the services of Trained Nurses under the control of local Associations. Since July, 1948, this service is now free.

(3) Hospitals.

Free treatment at Cambridge, Peterborough and Doddington Hospitals is now available to all.

(4) Ambulance Facilities.

The whole area is now served by Ambulances under the control of the County Council.

(5) Child Welfare.

Free clinics are held at Doddington and Manea. Transport is arranged for Benwick and Wimblington to attend the Doddington Clinic which is now held twice monthly.

Statistics:

	Total	M.	F.
• Live Births	103	55	48
Still Births	2	1	1
Deaths	61	37	24
Deaths of infants under 1 year	3	2	1

The Causes of death were:

Heart Diseases	20
Intracranial Vascular Diseases	5
Cancer	7
Bronchitis	7
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	2
Other Digestive diseases	1
Nephritis	1
Suicide	3
Other Violent Causes	3
All Other Causes	9
Appendicitis	1
Premature Birth	1
Congenital Malformation	1

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

Disease	Total Notified.	Deaths.
Measles	7	0
Pneumonia	13	0
Whooping Cough	30	0
Scarlet Fever	8	0
Cerebro-spinal Fever	1	0
Typhoid Fever	4	0
Erysipelas	2	0
Diphtheria	1	0
Tuberculosis	2	2

The cases of Typhoid were admitted from Manea to Doddington Hospital.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

During the year nine inspections were made to Factories. One defect was found and remedied. No outworkers are employed.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

The following are details of visits and inspections carried out during 1948.

Public Health Acts: Nuisances	81
Housing Act: Disrepair	101
Overcrowding	6
Cowsheds	42
Dairies	27
Bakehouses	8
Food Preparing Premises	21
Factories and Workshops	9
Refuse Accommodation	51
Sanitary Conveniences	65
Drain Inspections	76
Sewage Disposal (Beds and Dykes)	92
Water Supply	76
Moveable Dwellings	7
Petroleum Inspections	16
Piggeries	11
Garages	13
Greenhouses	4
Rats and Mice	58
Houses Disinfected	6
Houses in Course of Erection—visits	66
Night Soil Collection	53
Street Gullies	3
Vermin	3
Poultry Houses	6
Stables	2
Yards—paved	2
Other Building Work—wash-houses etc	86
Slaughterhouses	12
Miscellaneous, interview and meetings	387
	1390

Defects found and remedied.	Found.	Remedied.
Housing and Public Health	135	121
Nuisances from:—Choked drains	23	23
Sanitary Accommodation	34	34
Refuse Accommodation	10	10
	202	188

Milk and Dairies Order.

Contraventions found	8
Contraventions remedied	8

NORTH WITCHFORD
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Sanitary Inspector's Report for the Year 1948.

Housing.

One house was submitted to the Council for action under Section II of the Housing Act, 1936, and a Demolition Order made accordingly.

The Council completed eighteen permanent houses and had sixteen others under construction.

Private enterprise completed eleven houses and had eleven under construction.

Many defects were dealt with under the Public Health Act, 1936, most of them being remedied informally. In two cases Statutory Notices were served, both being complied with. One Statutory Notice was served under the Water Act, 1945 and duly complied with.

Building Licences.

During the year 168 building licences were issued and 116 plans were approved by the Council.

Water Supply.

The following is a summary of the information asked for by the Ministry of Health in Circular 3/49.

(1) The quantity and quality of the piped supply at Doddington and Wimblington is satisfactory. Last year there was yet another slight increase in pressure at Manea both during the day and in the evenings. The position at Benwick is as before—no piped supply—and during the year 13,300 gallons of water were carted there.

(2) One sample of water was taken from the piped supply at Wimblington and the Analyst's report stated "The results obtained on the analysis of this sample do not show any evidences of pollution with harmful organic or inorganic matter. I am of the opinion that this water is fit for drinking purposes."

One other sample was taken from a private well and certified as unfit for drinking purposes.

- (3) The local supply of water is not plumbo-solvent.
- (4) No action was necessary in respect of any contamination.
- (5) Proportion of dwelling houses supplied from public mains:—

Parish.	Direct to houses.	By standpipe.
Wimblington	85%	2½%
Doddington	57%	2 %
Manea and Welches Dam	87%	9 %
Benwick	nil	nil

Drainage and Sewerage.

The sewage beds at Doddington and Wimblington are sufficient for their purpose at present and no complaints have arisen from them.

21 drain tests were made during the year using the smoke machine and a total of 634 four inch pipes were tested. Again a few more pail closets have been converted to water closets and it is hoped that this improvement will carry on.

Public Cleansing.

Night soil is still collected by contract and utilised on the land, few complaints arising from this method. Tins and other indestructible refuse are collected monthly, dumped in tips and properly covered over.

Milk and Dairies.

The number of cowkeepers in the area is still 30, most of them being whole-sale traders. Two supplementary licences were issued for the sale of Pasteurised milk and one for the sale of Tuberculin Tested milk. One licence is in force for the production of Tuberculin Tested milk.

31 samples of milk were taken for bacteriological examination, 12 of which were described by the Bacteriologist as 'having failed to satisfy the prescribed tests.' Where a sample was unsatisfactory a further sample was taken, in each case the subsequent sample proved satisfactory.

Meat and Food Inspection.

Meat supplied to this area is killed in the adjoining urban area where it is inspected at the time of slaughter. Again only small amounts of tinned foodstuffs were condemned during the year.

Moveable Dwellings.

Only one licence was issued under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936, authorising the use of land for a moveable dwelling.

Infestation Order, 1943.

Comparatively few complaints have been received regarding infestation generally. The Council's sewers have been baited, no 'takes' being recorded. The sewage dykes, where the greatest infestation occurs, have been repeatedly baited.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938, Section 14.

One shop was registered under the above Act for the sale of ice cream.

H. BURTON,

Sanitary Inspector.

3rd June, 1949.

